

# PORTFOLIO

## IOANNIS KAROUNIS

The portfolio contains the most recent art works during 2012 – 2021 created by Ioannis Karounis, as listed below. Furthermore, it includes some of his recent participations and collaborations with other artists. The works have been presented in Greece and abroad.

### **CREATIONS**

ORBITAL | Site-Specific Performance

DAYLIGHT | Site-Specific Performance

THE UNBURIED DEAD | Site-Specific Performance

NATURE | Performance

THE WAY BACK | Site-Specific Performance

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# Orbital

**ORBITAL** | Site-specific performance | Long-durational performance, 5 days, 40 hours

**Performance - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis (2016 – 2021)

“The long-durational performance starts with a ritual dance - discussion with the ball that lasts approximately 30 minutes, until I decide that the ball will accept my body to balance on it for the rest of the day. During this spatiotemporal performance, there is another inner dimension: it is an ongoing discussion with myself and the audience. I want to decode and understand the reactions and behaviors of the audience who sees a man trying to find his balance among opposite forces.”

Following the links below, you can see the trailer of "Orbital" in Marina Abramovic Institute's Website [MAI Institution](https://www.marinaabramovic.com/en/works/orbital).

Video Link documentation when the piece was presented in the Benaki Museum

<https://vimeo.com/214575590>

Video Link when the piece was presented as a Site-Specific Performance in the Centre of Athens supported by the J. F. Costopoulos Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6WD2m9eelM&t=209s>





www.SaLtaTor.gr  
Physical Dance Group

## Daylight

**DAYLIGHT** | Site-specific performance | Museum

**Performance - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis & Saltator Physical Dance Group (2012 – 2016)

By collecting elements from the past and bringing them to the present, we create a contemporary traditional celebration. The performance explores and at the same time highlights the beauty and simplicity of tradition. The dancers are in a perfect connection and harmony with the musicians in a mutual relationship built by a series of steps and notes. The steps of the traditional dance inspire and give the spark to the movements of this performance. The audience has the opportunity to participate in the performance in the end and experience a traditional celebration.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/92709312>





# The Unburied Dead

**THE UNBURIED DEAD** | Site-specific performance | Theatre performance

**Performance - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis - Hernes Malkotsis (2013 – 2017)

This performance is a description of the continuous attempts of the person to regain his authenticity and, as a result, his freedom, through a relationship with the “other” which is based on dominance. What is hidden behind the sadomasochistic character of such a relationship? What is the role of violence, mimicry and dependence? In the same manner, another question is asked: is it possible that this relationship, which in the beginning is presented as antithetical, contains elements that can lead to identification. If such elements exist, people can surpass the conditions that support dominance of one over the other, and reach reconciliation. In order to exist without hating each other, one has to communicate with the others, knowing that existence is an impermanent state and that always changes.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/170376996>





# Nature

**NATURE** | Site-specific performance | Theatre performance | Museum

**Performance - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis (2013 – 2020)

The performance piece entitled “Nature” presents contemporary humans and the way they operate in their daily life, disrespecting nature’s equilibrium and, thus, paying the price for their indifference toward the continuing and inexorable destruction of the natural environment. Through this work, I aim to expose humankind’s voraciously consumerist behaviour, whose consequence is a set of mutated human values and priorities. The material I use, as both physical extension and distortion of my body, is the common yet notorious plastic bag: an industrial product, a symbol of blind consumerism, and a piece of waste that has been polluting the environment for decades. Although it has recently become demonized, and its gradual withdrawal has been of great concern to businesses and relevant state bodies, it remains omnipresent.

The piece was selected among the 120 out of 10,000 works by Art Laguna Prize 2020-2021 in Italy

Video Link

NATURE - Documentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEpLnMsrg7c&t=14s>





# The Way Back

**THE WAY BACK** | Site-specific performance | Long-durational performance, 19 hours

**Performance - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis (2017 – 2018)

The performer deliberates himself from personal worries, he does it in such a way that his perception e.g. of a sunset, is the same whether he observes it sitting in the cell of a prison or in a meadow. This blessing of perception irrespective of volition is the one that dresses the past and the distant with a magical glare, and showers them with complementing light.

“I observe the massive moving of populations of the last years and I realize that my city is a passer-by point or a station for millions of passing by immigrants. I begin the ceremony at the center of my city, in Omonoia Square. I sympathize with the spectators and I am anxious for the passers-by. I'm looking for a destination to break free, to be reborn.

I've been wondering for years, without beginning, middle station and end; in an eternally cyclic journey without destination and hope.”

Vicious cycle – grey zones – stressful roots and meetings of bodies that mechanically move with the endless rhythm of the city. Their only hope and salvation are realizing that they haven't been lost, they 've only remained at the same point. Their awakening call is the arrival of the train. Their escape route is the tunnel or the light, and the wide avenues which lead to the four points of the horizon.

Ioannis Karounis follow the curves of the square and create underground and on the ground routes.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/183050204>





# Construct

**CONSTRUCT** | Site-specific performance | Theatre performance | Museum

**Performance - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis (2018 – 2020)

The performance “Construct” presents the perpetual human effort to create and to preserve, in contrast with nature that can erode and recycle very easily. It reveals the forced adaptation of man to the nature’s laws after many centuries of battles and failures. It seems that all the answers have been given. We just need to pose the questions.

How did our species succeed in domination fight? How did our ancestors find the way to build cities and kingdoms? How did we come to believe in gods, nations, and human rights? To trust money, laws and books? To obey in bureaucracy, in strict timetables and in consumption models? And how will our world be in the next millennium? Why could people gather in incredibly large populations?

The man, as a creator, both in the material and in the spiritual culture, remains at the center of interest since the 5th century BC. A historical phenomenon that is also reflected in the poetry of the era, such as, for example, in the Sophocles' drama Antigone: "Many things are wonderful, but nothing more admirable than man".

Man as a constructor is always in the center of the ancient Greek anthropological thought, which gives a balanced meaning to the two-dimensional human nature: the ability of man to produce both spiritual and material goods.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/254324047>







# Femme

**FEMME** | Theatre performance

**Choreography - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis (2015-2016)

A piece dedicated to the female nature. A work in progress.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/187393889>



# Root-Less



**ROOT - LESS** | Site-specific performance | Theatre performance | Museum

**Performance - Concept:** Ioannis Karounis (2017 – 2020)

The piece is inspired by the alternation of body positions from darkness to light and vice versa. It explores the connection between the past and the future, the roots and the origin. This connection could be a tool to understand and connect with the present. The dancer draws shapes and emotions from his unconscious world to understand his existence.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/170382935>





**ROUTE 15 | Site-specific performance | Long-durational performance, 8 hours in the Tram 15  
Performance - concept: Ioannis Karounis (2017 – 2018)**

Ioannis Karounis gets on the bus 15 and remains on board for 8 consecutive hours in a busy route in the heart of Athens (Greece). A vicious circle that reflects the millions of commuters who remain strangers, unknown, anonymous. Only hope for interaction is a potential accident, an error, a halt to start the conversation.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/249499830>



**PARTICIPATIONS  
COLLABORATIONS**



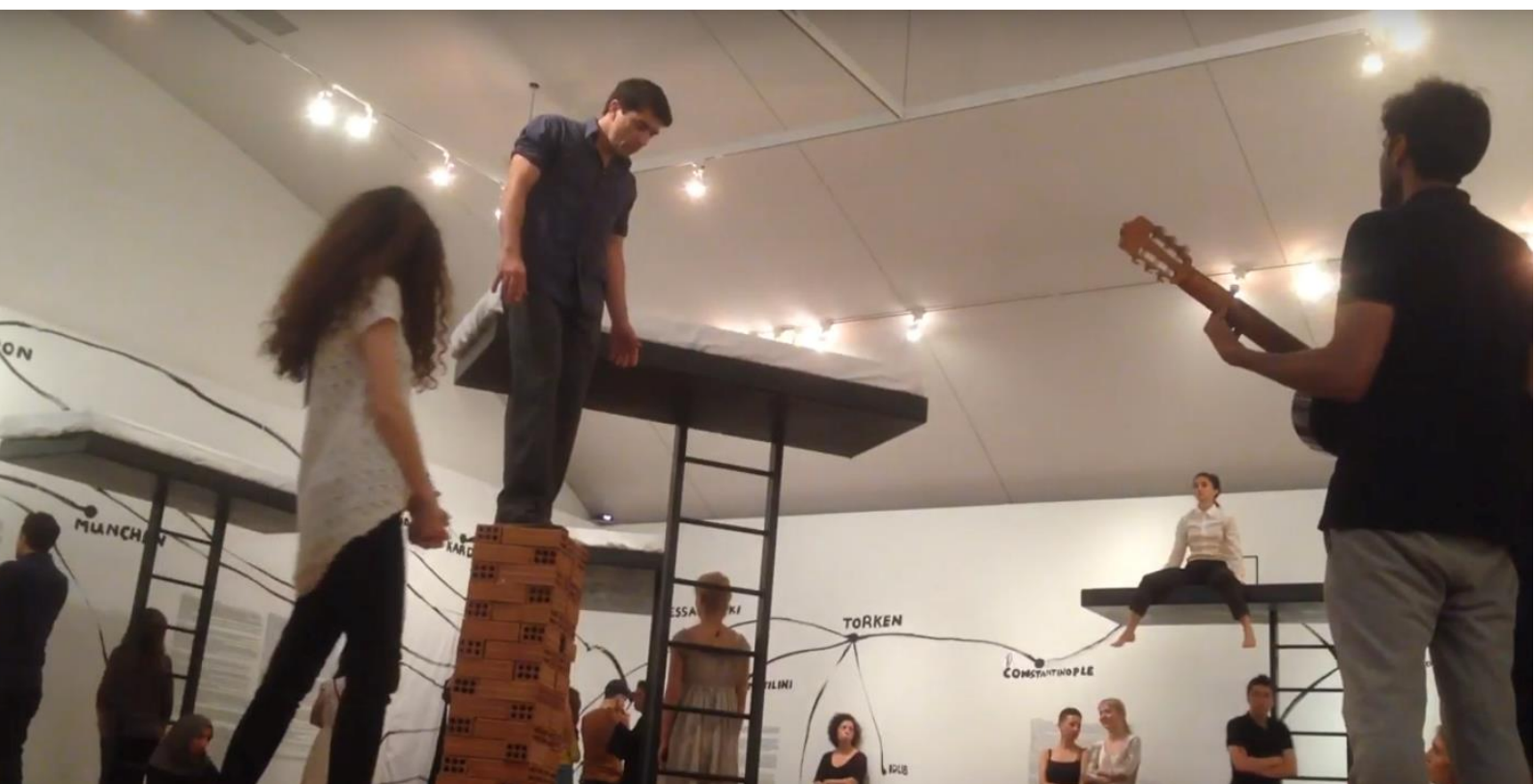
**THE TROJANS ANIMA CAPTUS** | Long-durational performance, 4 days, 96 hours, 32 hours on the bricks

**Performance - concept:** Rafika Chawishe, Michalis Argyrou (2018). At Benaki Museum, funded by NEON Organization and the Greek National Museum of Modern Art (EMST)

The performers lived in the Benaki Museum for 4 days  
Ioannis Karounis was the trainer of 50 performers and one of the performers

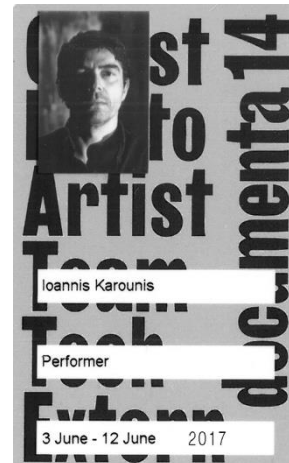
Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/378496787>





documenta 14  
Athens / Αθήνα  
Kassel / Κάσσελ  
2017



**DYNAMIS** | Long-durational performance, 7 Days, 168 Hours presented at Documenta 14  
**Performance - concept:** Georgia Sagri

The performers lived in the venue in Athens and Kassel for 7 days.

28 sculptures and ten breathing scores for Athens and Kassel Performance and demonstration of "Soma in Orgasm", simultaneously and in continuum in Athens and Kassel.

**Performers:** Nora Barbier, Sophia Djitli, Marianna Feher, Emma Howes, **Ioannis Karounis**, Lo-Yi Lee, Jaqueline Lisboa Silva, Clara Marie Müller, Hannah Peinemann, Georgia Sagri, Deva Schubert, Angela Stiegler, Fernanda Valdivieso, Catherine Woywod Open to public discussion with the presence of the artist and the chorus on the last day of the performance on June 12, 8 pm, at Papiercafé, Kunsthochschule Kassel. The map of *Dynamis* is distributed in Tositsa 5, Athens, at the Glas-Pavillons at Kurt-Schumacher-Straße, Kassel and is also available for download [here](#).

Link: Documenta 14

<https://www.documenta14.de/en/calendar/20547/georgia-sagri-dynamis>





**Concept & Choreography:** Ermira Goro - Premiered at Arc for Dance Festival (2018 – 2020)

**Assistants to the Choreographer – Performers:**

Ioannis Karounis, Alexandros Stavropoulos

Through the exploration of individuality and personal kinesiological expression, as well as through the variety and diversity of the bodies of the performers, "Meetings" leads the viewer to intuitively discern on stage elements of him- or herself and to rethink what "right" or "appropriate" even mean.

Arguably the greatest significance of this work lies in that it is seeking to abolish the rift that is torn between public and performers when physical skill, expressiveness and labor are confused with bodily youthfulness and vigor. Ultimately, "Meetings" was created to argue that dance is precisely an experience to be shared in community, provided that the latter's cohesion rests on the desire of its members to be other, together.

Video Links

MEETINGS: Athens

<https://vimeo.com/270394553>

MEETINGS: Athens

<https://vimeo.com/274738466>

Meetings: Athens \_ Making of

<https://vimeo.com/301374642>





**Performance - Choreography: Michael Kliën (2015)**

Performers: Ioannis Agnoglou, Mark Carberry, Jeff Gormly, Lia Aglaia Karampela, Ioannis Karounis, Emanouela Korki, Vitoria Kotsalou, Loxandra Loukas, Irini Mavromataki, Abduol Nazari, Thanos Oikonomopoulos, Martha Passakopoulou, Judith Ritter, Nikos Rousseas, Ana Sanchez-Colberg, Leoni Thanasoula, Zoe Tsavdarides, Steve Valk.

Performed by a mixed company of citizens (professional dancers alongside non-performers from diverse walks of life) and with audience free to wander, this radical, choreographic 'counter-spectacle' sets up a process for humans to re-root themselves in the social, physical and instinctive. Imagined as an urgent response to the crisis of Western civilization, Jerusalem aims to provide a ceremonial site for embodied sensing and moving.

Sitting within Kliën's wider oeuvre of "choreography as an aesthetics of change" this work has grown out of living in Greece throughout the financial crisis and extended public unrest, although it equally responds to universal conditions and wider realisations that Western paradigms have left us largely bereft psychologically, socially, spiritually and ecologically. Jerusalem inhabits the confusion of collapse and evokes a sense of possibility of other ways of being. Under the glow of construction floodlights in an industrial space, imperatives of the established social contract are revised. Challenging customary notions of human conduct, of theatrical boundaries, and of artistic beauty and mastery, this work creates a shared and porous space where performers and audience coexist, essentially in the body. Manifesting a disorienting loss of coherence and a simultaneous meshing into new communion, Jerusalem seeks the emergence of a new lucidity. Echoing William Blake's poem of the same title, it asks: can a new sacredness and ground be engendered here amongst the chaos?

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/552083639>





## **PASSING THROUGH** | International Project

**Performance – Concept: David Zambrano (2015)**

34 Performers from around the world.

Performers:

David Zambrano, Nicola Cisternino, **Ioannis Karounis**, Jonathan Hung, Chun Lok, Alex Gotch, Napoleon Manatos, Sherwood Chen, Florent Hamon, Eliades Plotinos, Ismaera Gabriela Cecena, Katerina Archodaki, Emilie De Roo, Maroula Iliopoulou, Gabriela Serani, Lucia Sauro, Nicole Koimtzi, Milan Herich, Maria Doulgeri, Marilena Dara, Misa Lommi, Aya Toraiwa, Sara Sguotti, Yara Menel, Carli Gelling, Christina Reinhart, Elena Moreno, Paola Di Bella, Mariana Panourgia, Olga Spiraki, Vicky Angelidou, Sidone Sara Sanchez, Myrto Haritaki.

Video Link

<https://vimeo.com/170552124>



# PRODUCTIONS



## **ATHENS VIDEO DANCE PROJECT - AVDP FESTIVAL**

<http://www.athensvideodanceproject.gr/>

Showreel AVDP 10 (2020)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fllEeuadXik&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fllEeuadXik&feature=emb_logo)

## **AVDP TV**

Interviews – Documentaries

<http://www.athensvideodanceproject.gr/avdp-tv>

## **Promenade Project**

Live Performances in collaboration with Athens School of Fine Arts

<https://vimeo.com/474381113>

## **VIDEO DANCE**

**HEREafter** | Creation, Filmmaking, Editing | Ioannis Karounis

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/465503932/privacy>

**Ruin** | Creation, Filmmaking, Editing | Ioannis Karounis

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/93826985/privacy>

**Under the bridge** | Creation, Filmmaking, Editing | Ioannis Karounis

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Q0AfGHfAuA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Q0AfGHfAuA)

**Trailer/ Nadja- Who Am I?** | Filmmaking, Editing | Ioannis Karounis

<https://vimeo.com/502222390>



# TEACHING EXPERIENCE



## PERFORMANCE LAB WORKSHOPS

### Performance lab workshops

Video Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPctD8L72dg>

### Dance Workshops

Video Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiRz72WEWSs&t=2s>

<https://vimeo.com/108739492>



# Info

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